

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print order system, comprising:

a print order device and a print processing device
which can mutually communicate data therebetween,

5 wherein

the print order device comprises:

an image data transmitting device for
transmitting, to the print processing device
corresponding thereto, image data representing an image
10 to be printed; and

an order data transmitting device for transmitting
order data including a number of print copies of the
image to be printed to the print processing device in
correlation with the image data transmitted from the
15 image data transmitting device, and

the print processing device comprises:

an image data receiving device for receiving the
image data transmitted from the image data transmitting
device of the print order device;

20 an order data receiving device for receiving the
order data transmitted from the order data transmitting
device of the print order device; and

a printer control device for controlling a printer
to print an image represented by the image data received
25 by the image data receiving device, according to the
order data received by the order data receiving device.

2. A print order system in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the print processing device further includes a calculating device for calculating a print end time of the printer according to the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting device of the print order device, the order data transmitted from the order data transmitting device, and an order reception state of the printer.

3. A print order system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the print processing device further includes an end time data transmitting device for transmitting, to the print order device, data representing the print end time calculated by the calculating device.

4. A print order system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the print processing device further includes a print charge calculating device for calculating a print charge according to the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting device of the print order device and the order data transmitted from the order data transmitting device.

5. A print order system in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the printer control device controls the printer to print out in a print sequence according to a sequence of receiving of the order data by the order data receiving device;

the print order device further includes a change instruction transmitting device for transmitting an

instruction to change the print sequence to the print processing device; and

the print processing device includes a print sequence changing device for changing the print sequence according to the change instruction transmitted from the change instruction transmitting device of the print order device.

6. A print order device which can mutually communicate data with a print processing device in a print order system, comprising:

an image data transmitting device for transmitting, to the print processing device corresponding thereto, image data representing an image to be printed; and

15 an order data transmitting device for transmitting
order data including a number of print copies of the
image to be printed to the print processing device in
correlation with the image data transmitted from the
image data transmitting device.

20 7. A print processing device which can mutually
communicate data with a print order device in a print
order system, wherein

image data representing an image to be printed and order data including a number of print copies of the image to be printed are transmitted in correlation with each other to the print processing device, the print processing device comprising:

an image data receiving device for receiving the image data transmitted from the print order device;

5 a printer control device for controlling a printer
to print an image represented by the image data received
by the image data receiving device, according to the
order data received by the order data receiving device.

transmitting, to the print processing device
corresponding thereto, image data representing an image
15 to be printed; and

9. A printing method for use with a print processing
20 device which can mutually communicate data with a print
order device in a print order system, wherein image data
representing an image to be printed and order data
including a number of print copies of the image to be
printed are transmitted in correlation with each other
25 to the print processing device, the method comprising
the steps of:

an image data receiving device for receiving the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting device of the meal order device;

an order data receiving device for receiving the order data transmitted from the order data transmitting device of the meal order device; and

a printer control device for controlling a printer to print an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving device, according to the order data received by the order data receiving device.

11. A meal order system in accordance with claim 10, wherein:

for an ordered meal represented by the meal order data, a prediction time of end of meal is beforehand determined; and

the printer control device controls the printer to completely print, at the prediction time of end of meal, the image ordered.

12. A meal order device capable of mutually communicating data with an order receiving device in a meal order system, comprising:

an ordered meal data transmitting device for transmitting data representing a meal ordered by a guest and data identifying a seat of the guest;

an image data reading device for reading image data representing an image to be printed from a recording medium;

an image data transmitting device for transmitting, to the order receiving device corresponding thereto, the image data read by the image data reading device in correlation with the meal order data and the seat identifying data; and

an order data transmitting device for transmitting order data including a number of print copies of the image to be printed to the order receiving device in correlation with the order data and the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting device.

13. An order receiving device capable of mutually communicating data with a meal order device in a meal order system in which

data representing a meal ordered by a guest, data
15 identifying a seat of the guest, image data representing
an image to be printed, and order data including a
number of print copies of the image to be printed are
transmitted in correlation with each other, the order
receiving device comprising:

an ordered meal data receiving device for receiving the ordered meal data transmitted from the meal order device;

an image data receiving device for receiving the image data transmitted from the meal order device;

25 an order data receiving device for receiving the
order data transmitted from the meal order device; and

a printer control device for controlling a printer

to print an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving device, according to the order data received by the order data receiving device.

14. A meal order method for use with a meal order
5 device capable of communicating with an order receiving
device in a meal order system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting data representing a meal ordered by a guest and data identifying a seat of the guest;

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        reading image data representing an image to be
10    printed from a recording medium;

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transmitting, to the order receiving device corresponding thereto, the image data read from the recording medium in correlation with the meal order data and the seat identifying data; and

15 transmitting order data including a number of
print copies of the image to be printed to the order
receiving device in correlation with the transmitted
order data and the image data.

15. A meal order receiving method for use with an order
20 receiving device capable of mutually communicating data
with a meal order device in a meal order system, wherein
data representing a meal ordered by a guest, data
identifying a seat of the guest, image data representing
an image to be printed, and order data including a
25 number of print copies of the image to be printed are
transmitted from the meal order device to the order
receiving device in correlation with each other, the

method comprising the steps of:

receiving the ordered meal data, the image data,
and the order data transmitted from the meal order
device; and

5 controlling a printer to print an image
represented by the image data received, according to the
order data.

16. A print order system, comprising:

a print order device and a print processing device
10 which can mutually communicate data therebetween,
wherein

the print order device comprises:

image data transmitting means for transmitting, to
the print processing device corresponding thereto, image
15 data representing an image to be printed; and

order data transmitting means for transmitting
order data including a number of print copies of the
image to be printed to the print processing device in
correlation with the image data transmitted from the
20 image data transmitting means, and

the print processing device comprises:

image data receiving means for receiving the image
data transmitted from the image data transmitting means
of the print order device;

25 order data receiving means for receiving the order
data transmitted from the order data transmitting means
of the print order device; and

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printer control means for controlling a printer to print an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving means, according to the order data received by the order data receiving means.

17. A print order device which can mutually communicate data with a print processing device in a print order system, comprising:

image data transmitting means for transmitting, to the print processing device corresponding thereto, image data representing an image to be printed; and

order data transmitting means for transmitting order data including a number of print copies of the image to be printed to the print processing device in correlation with the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting means.

18. A print processing device which can mutually communicate data with a print order device in a print order system, wherein

image data representing an image to be printed and
20 order data including a number of print copies of the
image to be printed are transmitted in correlation with
each other to the print processing device, the print
processing device comprising:

image data receiving means for receiving the image
25 data transmitted from the print order device;

order data receiving means for receiving the order data transmitted from the print order device; and

printer control means for controlling a printer to print an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving means, according to the order data received by the order data receiving means.

5 19. A meal order system, comprising:

a meal order device for transmitting data representing a meal ordered by a guest and data identifying a seat of the guest; and

10 order receiving device for receiving the data transmitted from the meal order device, the order receiving device being capable of mutually communicating data with the meal order device, wherein

the meal order device, comprises:

15 image data reading means for reading image data representing an image to be printed from a recording medium;

20 image data transmitting means for transmitting, to the order receiving device corresponding thereto, the image data read by the image reading means in correlation with the meal order data and the seat identifying data; and

25 order data transmitting means for transmitting order data including a number of print copies of the image to be printed to the order receiving device in correlation with the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting means and

the order receiving device comprises:

image data receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting means of the meal order device;

order data receiving means for receiving the order
5 data transmitted from the order data transmitting means
of the meal order device; and

printer control means for controlling a printer to
print an image represented by the image data received by
the image data receiving means, according to the order
10 data received by the order data receiving means.

20. A meal order device capable of mutually communicating data with an order receiving device in a meal order system, comprising:

ordered meal data transmitting means for
15 transmitting data representing a meal ordered by a guest
and data identifying a seat of the guest;

image data reading means for reading image data
representing an image to be printed from a recording
medium;

20 image data transmitting means for transmitting, to the order receiving device corresponding thereto, the image data read by the image data reading means in correlation with the meal order data and the seat identifying data; and

25 order data transmitting means for transmitting
order data including a number of print copies of the
image to be printed to the order receiving device in

correlation with the order data and the image data transmitted from the image data transmitting means.

21. An order receiving device capable of mutually communicating data with a meal order device in a meal
5 order system in which

data representing a meal ordered by a guest, data identifying a seat of the guest, image data representing an image to be printed, and order data including a number of print copies of the image to be printed are
10 transmitted in correlation with each other, the order receiving device comprising:

ordered meal data receiving means for receiving the ordered meal data transmitted from the meal order device;

15 image data receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from the meal order device;

order data receiving means for receiving the order data transmitted from the meal order device; and

printer control means for controlling a printer to
20 print an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving means, according to the order data received by the order data receiving means.